THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Modernisation of infrastructure facilities at airports is a continuing process, depending upon traffic potential, availability of resources and projected requirements of airline operators.

Some of the projects, contemplated/ undertaken by AAI in a phased manner are:—

— construction of New International Passenger Terminal Complex Phase-III at Mumbai Airport.

— construction of new Domestic Terminal Phase-II at Mumbai Airport.

— construction of new international Passenger terminal Phase II at IGI airport.

— construction of New terminal complex at Trivandrum airport.

— construction of new International Passenger Terminal Phase II at Chennai airport.

— construction of International Terminal Complex and modification of domestic Terminal Complex at Amritsar airport.

— Extension of runway at Calicut airport, construction of new terminal and Cargo complex at Guwahati.

— construction of terminal cum technical block at Jaipur airport.

Declaration of Ahmedabad airport as an international airport

582. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Gujarat had been approaching the Central Government for the upgradation of Ahmedabad airport to an international level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government is seriously considering the proposal during the golden Jubilee Celebration Year of our Independence;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Gujarat desired the upgradation of Ahmedabad airport for the operation of B-747 class of aircraft. The State Government has handed over 61 acres of land to AAI. The AAI Board has approved the project of expansion of runway and associated works. Notice inviting tenders is likely to be issued during August 1998 and the work is expected to be completed within 24 months from the date of its award.

Route dispersal guidelines for private airlines for N.E.

583. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private airlines operating in country are observing route dispersal guidelines for N.E. in letter and spirit;

(b) if not, reasons therefor; and

(c) steps taken by Government to have strict compliance by the private airlines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Instructions have been issued to all the operators not to alter/modify or cancel flights from the schedules approved by the DGCA without obtaining the latter's prior permission in writing. In case of any violation of the prescribed guidelines, necessary action is initiated by the DGCA against the

operator under the Aircraft Act, 1934 and the rules framed thereunder.

Formation of Air Traffic Board/Air Traffic Authority

584. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of "open sky policy" of the Government declared in 1991, it is pertinent, to have fair play among public and private airlines, to have an "Air Traffic Boards" or "Air Traffic Authority";

(b) if so, is there any proposal before the Government to constitute this Board/ Authority in near future; and

(c) if so, by when such institution will be formed and what will be its term of reference and operation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) There is a proposal, though at a nascent stage, to constitute a multi-member Civil Aviation Authority through an Act of Parliament. The matter is under consideration.

Implementation of New Civil Aviation Policy

585. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the "Civil Aviation Policy" declared last year which envisages that no foreign airlines can have subsidiary in domestic operation;

(b) the number of such proposals pending with Government for clearance after this new policy, who are they; and

(c) the number of proposals cleared and when they are likely to be operational in our country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) None.

(c) Does not arise.

Expansion of Trivandrum International Airport

586. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the expansion scheme for Trivandrum International Airport; and

(b) the amount earmarked for the scheme and by what time the expansion is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The expansion scheme for Trivandrum International airport envisages:

— interior modification of existing terminal building and extension of apron at a cost of Rs. 8.97 crores. These projects are likely to be completed by December, 1998.

— construction of a new terminal complex at an estimated cost of Rs. 200 crores. Rs. 100 crores has been earmarked in the 9th Five Year Plan for this purpose.

Additional flights of foreign airlines

587. SHRI BANARSI DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India earns a considerable revenue from tourists and with the collapse of currencies in the Far East, India is facing an increased competition for tourism and investment from these countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken in this regard;

(c) whether foreign airlines are still interested in monitoring additional flights in India, is now not the most appropriate time for India to leverage the maximum benefits from any negotiations on the various air service agreements for any additional capacity; and